



EUROPEAN  
JEWISH  
FUND



ACTIVITY SUMMARY  
2014-2015





ACTIVITY SUMMARY  
2014-2015

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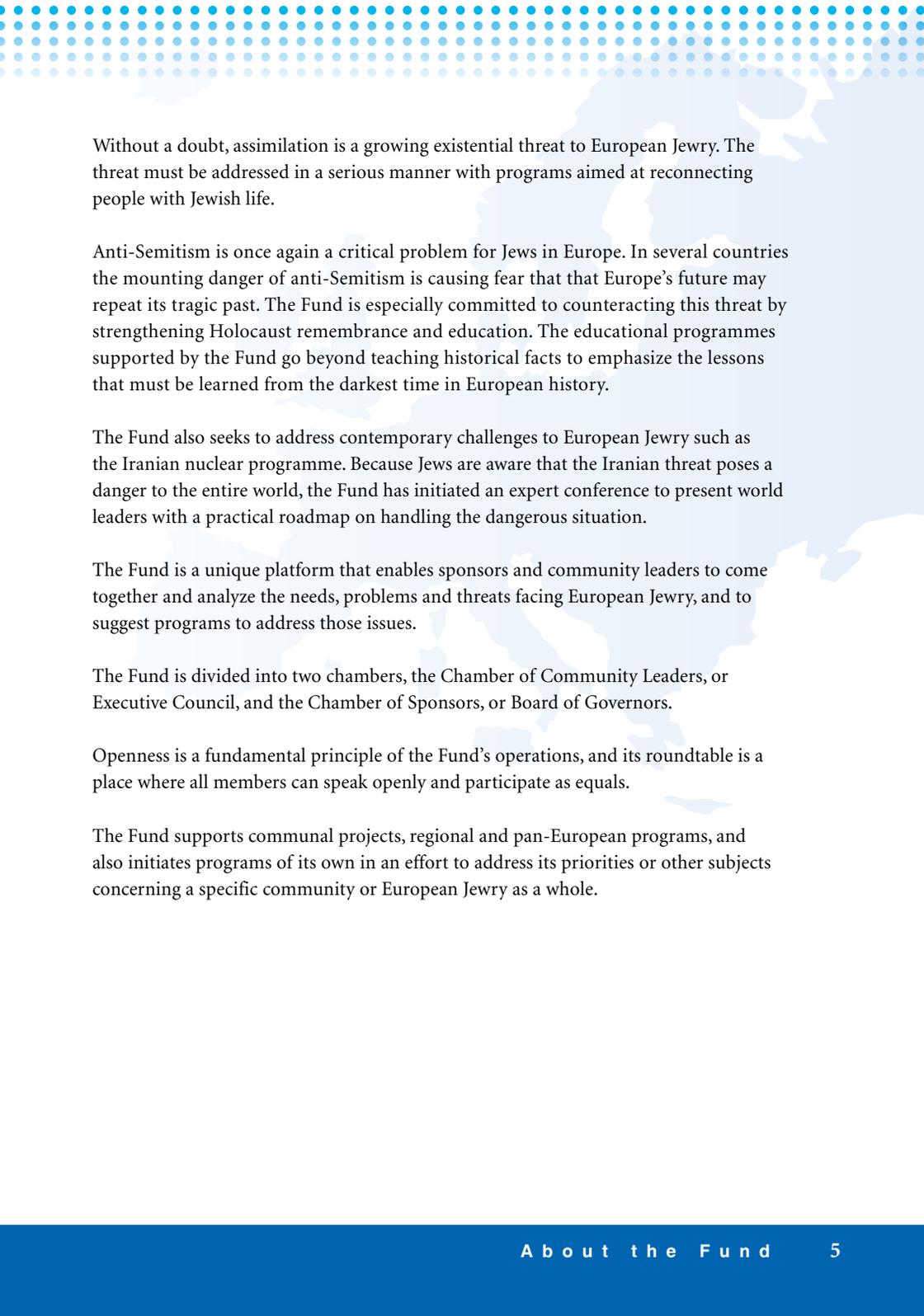
**Viatcheslav Moshe Kantor,**  
Chairman of the European Jewish Fund

## About the Fund

The European Jewish Fund was founded in February 2006 on the initiative of Viatcheslav Moshe Kantor. The Fund was established with the specific goal of reinforcing Jewish life in Europe.

To achieve this goal, the Fund focuses on young people's connection to Judaism and their communities by supporting programs aimed at building Jewish identity and Jewish pride, especially by reconnecting young people with their rich Jewish past. Consequently, the Fund supports programs to educate young people about Jewish achievements in all aspects of life, including culture, science and medicine, presenting these achievements as a source of pride and self-respect.

The Fund is also committed to addressing assimilation, anti-Semitism and racism as serious threats to Jewish life in Europe.



Without a doubt, assimilation is a growing existential threat to European Jewry. The threat must be addressed in a serious manner with programs aimed at reconnecting people with Jewish life.

Anti-Semitism is once again a critical problem for Jews in Europe. In several countries the mounting danger of anti-Semitism is causing fear that that Europe's future may repeat its tragic past. The Fund is especially committed to counteracting this threat by strengthening Holocaust remembrance and education. The educational programmes supported by the Fund go beyond teaching historical facts to emphasize the lessons that must be learned from the darkest time in European history.

The Fund also seeks to address contemporary challenges to European Jewry such as the Iranian nuclear programme. Because Jews are aware that the Iranian threat poses a danger to the entire world, the Fund has initiated an expert conference to present world leaders with a practical roadmap on handling the dangerous situation.

The Fund is a unique platform that enables sponsors and community leaders to come together and analyze the needs, problems and threats facing European Jewry, and to suggest programs to address those issues.

The Fund is divided into two chambers, the Chamber of Community Leaders, or Executive Council, and the Chamber of Sponsors, or Board of Governors.

Openness is a fundamental principle of the Fund's operations, and its roundtable is a place where all members can speak openly and participate as equals.

The Fund supports communal projects, regional and pan-European programs, and also initiates programs of its own in an effort to address its priorities or other subjects concerning a specific community or European Jewry as a whole.



## FLY Budapest Conference “Innovation & Inspiration: Power of the Crowd”, February, 2015

### Connecting Israel & European Innovators to Investors Experts and One Another

Leadel, a pan-European/Israel initiative by the European Jewish Fund that aims to provide rising Jewish professionals & entrepreneurs with practical tools and opportunities to make the real change in our world through networking, career growth opportunities, mentorship programs, involvement into social and public initiatives throughout Europe and in Israel.

The key annual event of Leadel, FLY Conference is a hub for Jewish professionals/entrepreneurs across Europe and Israel for exploring new connections, resources, and professional endeavors within and across the Jewish world. It is a tool to identify such



young Jewish professionals, establish viable connections with this otherwise “difficult” audience and maintain constant contact with them to nurture the new generation of conscious successful supporters of the Jewish causes.



**This year Leadel’s Annual FLY Conference took place in Budapest on Feb 04-05, 2015. It was attended by over 250 participants from 18 countries (Israel, Europe, USA).**

Thanks to pan-European geography of its participants, FLY Conference added greatly to strengthening of professional and business links between Israel and Europe, connecting the Startup Nation of Israel with its European counterparts, and to the overall awareness of Israel achievements in the field of innovation, thus contributed to the shaping of positive image of Israel among Europeans.

### **Topic & Speakers**

The highlight of FLY Conference 2015, Power of the Crowd, as the way to implement the dreams of emerging generation of innovators, has resonated with many experts in the business world from Israel, Europe and USA, who delivered impressive speeches in various fields: from hi-tech to social activism, from politics to journalism, from online media to art, from philanthropy to startup world.

### **Partners**

FLY Conference positioned itself as the Platform for Platforms, Connecting Israel & European Innovators to Investofcs Experts and One Another, where each organization, sharing the FLY’s vision on strong Jewish future in Europe was welcome to join and contribute to the cause, while advancing own missions. Such concept and approach allowed the FLY Conference to develop partnership relations with virtually every player in the field of Jewish social entrepreneurship, also VCs, startup accelerators & hubs, Jewish communities, governmental bodies and diplomatic missions, turning potential competitors into active supporters and promoters. Since each partner had a share in the program development, they made efforts to reach out own constituencies and Alumni networks, ensuring diversity and depth of the audience.

## Program

Another Unique feature of FLY Budapest Conference 2015 was the wide range of practical tools, tips, connections, and support for young professionals with big ideas:

- Exhibition space at Start-Up Boulevard (both online and offline)
- Key-note speeches from crowdfunding experts, start-up gurus and officials
- Expert tracks – deeper practical skills delivered by experts in smaller groups
- Peer-to-peer conversations facilitated by experts - to network the project, enhance own teams or to join teams of like-minded professionals
- Pitch contest – selected participants had a chance to pitch in front of the team of experts, whereupon the entire audience crowd-voted for the winner who received a cash prize to advance she presented
- Opportunities for one-on-one conversations with our Speakers, Investors, Experts & Mentors (subject to preliminary sign-up)

## Startup Boulevard: Jewish Innovation & Power of the Crowd in Action

Thanks to such highly interactive agenda with tangible and clear outcomes, the FLY Budapest Conference inspired over 70 Jewish entrepreneurs to submit their ideas for Start-Up Boulevard contest. Out of them 37 qualified to be feature and 13 were selected for FLY Pitch Contest. The project eligible for pitching had match to the following selection criteria:

1. To represent a grass-root idea of an individual, rather than an established organization
2. To be at least at the pilot stage, with working prototype, website, product (for startups) and/or is a full-fledged initiative with proven track of success and impact (for social entrepreneurship initiatives)
3. Can be expanded / franchised to other European countries and Israel or otherwise welcomes international cooperation.
4. To have a clear mechanism for financial sustainability and has a potential for exponential / viral growth.

As a result of crowd-voting the Pitch Contest Award was granted to Maayan Cohen for creation of unique EyeCanTouch technology, a game platform that enables children with motor and speech disabilities to control physical toys using their eyes alone! And this was just one example of equally challenging and inspiring Jewish innovations.

## Young Leaders Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> Gathering, February, 2015

Following the kick-off meeting in London (2013), Young Leaders Forum gathered again with new thoughts, aspirations and visions re better future of strong and vibrant Jewish life in Europe. This time the Forum united 16 Executives and involved committed Jewish leaders of public organizations from 11 countries (Czech Republic, Germany, Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, UK, Hungary, Italy, Israel), who all were inspired with the Forum goal:

**to provide pan-European Leadership with the platform and practical tools to tackle with the urgent issues within their respective communities, and develop action plan and convenient mechanism to coordinate the actions, required to bring about the positive change and advancement in Jewish life in Europe, as a whole.**





Two days of intense discussions and brainstorming resulted in the impressive range of practical outcomes, reflecting the most urgent issues for the younger-tier of Jewish European leadership. The Forum decided that the most efficient way to maintain and coordinate pan-European activities in Jewish Europe would be the development of a powerful informational platform that unites all Jewish communities, organizations, interested and involved individuals, companies and corporations, enables active sharing of ideas, challenges and opportunities, and serves as a universal database of best-practices and skilled professionals.

The platform members could become both content-providers and active users, contributing to creation of the welcoming space with diverse programming that spans from enlightening and PR activities, dedicated for non-Jews and unaffiliated Jews, to profound standing operation for observant Jews of all denomination, with multiple options for various depth and topics in between.

The platform was supposed to be run by Leadel who could facilitate, coordinate and amplify efforts of multiple individuals, seeking ways to maintain and deepen Jewish life in Europe, as well as provide orientation for unaffiliated Jews to understand the map of Jewish community and choose the most appropriate initiative.

## Centropa Professional Development Seminar

### Centropa, Austria

The main aim of Centropa's educational programs is to create a European-wide network for history and English teachers of Jewish schools. Centropa seminars act as a professional development course and meant to provide teachers with a platform so they can share best practices and learn from one another on how to use new technologies, digital storytelling, English and Holocaust education—all in a single course.

Following the success of Centropa's Summer Academy and seminar for teachers from European Jewish schools took place in Berlin in February 2013; Centropa's team organized another teachers' seminar in Frankfurt. This three day seminar took place close to the date of the assassination of the Austrian Archduke in Sarajevo in June, 1914. During this seminar the organizers how to use their website and database, also presentations were given by veteran teachers who already used Centropa's materials and have the experience how to create and use lesson plans or conduct successful projects. The seminar also provided them with a website where they can find useful lesson plans and video lectures by historians that will help upgrade their knowledge base, strengthen their students' understanding of twentieth-century Jewish history, and assist them in building a stronger sense of Jewish identity.



# Revealing the Invisible

## The Beit Project (Spain)



“Revealing the Invisible” introduces a different overall approach to Jewish heritage, placing emphasis on preserving and using the memory of places that are in the public space of many European cities, sometimes in very central areas, just in front of our eyes, but remain completely unknown to residents and visitors as “Jewish sites.” They are “invisible” and their traces are almost completely lost, although the story they could tell about the relationships between communities is extremely relevant for understanding contemporary European society and the challenges it faces.

Maintaining the vibrancy of Jewish heritage is not only about preservation, but also about revealing relevant meanings, not only for Jewish communities, but for society at large. Our project is aimed at identifying and valorizing “invisible” sites with three complementary elements: network-based European research; professional training for educators and guides; and the publication of an on-line open resource Jewish heritage atlas that highlights the constructive complexity of these sites.

This “geographical atlas,” which includes multi-layered information and analysis of “invisible” Jewish heritage sites, consists, to start with, of twenty sites in seven European cities, four that were developed during last academic year (2013–14) (Berlin, Paris, Brussels, and Barcelona) and three that will be added during 2015 (London, Lodz, and Rome). The atlas will be in an open digital format that will be further enhanced by other heritage specialists all over Europe.



The objective is to disseminate the researched material about these sites, covering major European cities in order to enrich the work of local educators and provide on-line consultation for visitors.

# The 9<sup>th</sup> International Children's Art Forum Jewish Shtetl Revival

Union of Belarussian Jewish Public  
Associations and Communities

The International Children's Art Forum 'Jewish *Shtetl* Revival' in Belarus took place in 2015 for the ninth time with the support of the European Jewish Fund.

Creative young people from European Jewish communities gather and travel together, studying the history of Jewish culture and art. Inspired by historical Jewish venues, they produce works in various fields of the arts: painting, drawing, crafts, photography, and fashion.





The project supports the young generation of European Jewish communities in taking the first step toward the study of Jewish art, and to developing and improving their abilities. The goal of the project is to establish contact between the young people of the European Jewish communities, to encourage interest in Jewish art, and to develop participants' creative thinking.

The program includes a children's artistic *en plein air*, an exhibition of works of the participants, and the publication of a booklet with their works of art. During the children's Art Forum, the participants will visit several Belarusian towns famous for their Jewish history and culture, including Minsk, Gorodeia, and Vitebsk. The Art Forum participants will have the opportunity to become acquainted with the history of the *shtetls* and be inspired by the Jewish atmosphere to make sketches of their future works. The Art Forum participants will exchange knowledge of and experience with the Jewish culture and arts of their countries and participate in workshops and master classes of renowned Belarusian Jewish artists.

# Summer Camp

## The Jewish Community of Thessaloniki

The Jewish community of Thessaloniki founded the Summer Camp Program in the years following the Holocaust, when it was struggling to re-establish Jewish life in the city and community institutions that had been devastated by the war. Within this framework, the first summer camp was organized in 1948 in Agia Triada. Apart from the recreational and humanitarian purpose of the summer camp, one of its most important goals was to develop and sustain the Jewish identity of children, maintaining a chain of Jewish tradition in Greece and strengthening ties between Jews in Greece and participants from other countries.

The summer camp of the Jewish community of Thessaloniki has become one of the most important institutions for Greek Jewry, a unique event that brings together almost 300 children from all over Greece, the Balkan region, and Israel each year.

The Jewish summer camp is located in the northeastern part of the country, in a resort area near the sea, at the foot of Mount Olympus. The campers' ages range from seven to fifteen, and they are divided into three age groups. Camp activities are run by youth leaders from 15 to 18 years old and by madrichim (counselors) eighteen years old and over.

Every year, a central theme for the educational and outdoor activities of the camp is chosen. "Jerusalem 3000," "50 Years of Israel," "Great Jewish Personalities," "For a Better World," "Think Jewish, Act Green," "Jewish Artists" and "Jewish Values" are only some examples of themes that have been chosen in the past.

All the activities at the camp are based on the principles of informal education. General knowledge of the Jewish religion, history, current affairs in Israel, and Jewish identity in the Diaspora are stressed in all the activities, adjusted according to the age and the preferences of the children. During the summer camp, Jewish youth from different countries come together and discover, through their similarities and differences, the richness of Jewish religion and tradition.



# LZB – EJF Mini-Limmud

## The Jewish Community of Lithuania

Following the success of the Mini-Limmud events that took place in Lithuania in 2013 and 2014, the Jewish Community of Lithuania organized this festival for the third time in November 2015.



The aim of Mini-Limmud is to create a unique and dynamic environment in which to engage the growing number of Jews in Lithuania who are eager to learn about their culture and history. This successful outreach program targets Jews of all ages, families and singles, professionals and lay leaders, and has something for everyone. Offerings include lectures on a broad range of diverse Jewish and Israel-related topics presented by esteemed scholars and lecturers from abroad as well as by the participants themselves. This year event hosted 350 people of all ages.

The program conducts a variety of activities that range from instruction on how to read from the Torah and lead communal prayer to Jewish cooking and Israeli dance workshops. Shabbat celebration is one of the central activities of the program.



This projects aims to strengthen Jewish knowledge and practice in Lithuania by providing opportunities for all members of the community to partake in high-quality learning experiences. Its goals are to attract hard-to-reach unaffiliated Jews through relevant and responsive programming, to increase indigenous leadership capacity through opportunities for professional and personal growth, and to provide all members of the community with the opportunity to contribute to communal life through teaching and learning.

# Jewish Forum “Jahad”

## The Jewish Community of Estonia

The annual Jewish Forum “Jahad” (All Together) took place in Pärnu in October 2015 and gathered Jewish people of all ages and from all over Estonia providing them with an opportunity to share their views, opinions, questions, and problems regarding all areas of Jewish life in Estonia in an open and friendly atmosphere. 470 people have participated in “Jahad 2015”, among them – 70 children.



Forum participants took part in numerous lectures, seminars, and workshops that covered a wide range of topics. Forum topics included Jewish culture and traditions, psychology, economics, art, history, politics, health, Jewish cuisine, sports, and more. Educational lectures, seminars and round tables were led by local and international speakers from Israel, Russia, USA, Germany, Latvia and Lithuania. All lectures and seminars were conducted in three languages – Estonian, Russian, and English. The forum serves as an excellent platform for dialogue among Russian-speaking and Estonian-speaking Jews and promotes their mutual cooperation.

The Forum was visited by a number of high-ranking officials, including Marina Kaljurand, Estonian Minister of International Affairs and Arezoo Hersel, 1st Secretary (Deputy Head of Mission) of Embassy of Israel in Helsinki, who both spoke during the opening of the Forum.



# Jewish Education and Youth

## The Jewish Community of Lisbon, Portugal

The Jewish Community of Lisbon (CIL) is heir to the legacy of one of Europe's oldest and most significant Sephardic Jewish communities. It was founded during the Middle Ages, abolished by the Inquisition in the 15th century, and reestablished in the early 1800s. Since then, it has been a very small, struggling community, only enlarged during World War II due to the influx of European Jews on their way to other countries throughout the world.

The aim of this project is to provide Jewish education with an emphasis on young people, in order to build and develop their Jewish identities and prevent further assimilation. The Informal Education Project (initiated in 2002) was founded, organized, and supervised by the Executive Director of CIL.





Target group: Children and adolescents from 3 to 16 years old

Objective: The organized youth movement (Dor Chadash) is based on a system and classical model used in many countries, of educational self-governing, the principle of education through peers and personal example, thus guaranteeing continuity and stimulating new generations through systematic, informal educational activities.

The contents of the activities are focused on subjects such as Judaism and Jewish identity, including contemporary Judaism, Jewish religion and culture, Zionism, socializing in community life, recreation, and entertainment.

Approximately 30 to 40 activities are held annually, and about 75 participants are registered. Weekly activities are held on Sundays, and on average, some 40 to 45 young people participate each week. Activities include:

- Celebration of all major Jewish holidays, as well as Yom Hashoah and Yom Haatzmaut
- Occasional kabbalat Shabbat with the participation of the whole family.
- Summer Camp (Machané) organized for children above 7 years of age, with average participation of 40 children each year (9 summer camps were held in the last 7 years)
- Annual courses in leadership for Dor Chadash members above 16 years old
- Outings, conventions, and exchange programs with youngsters from other European Jewish communities (mainly Madrid)

# Jewish Education in the Jewish Communities of Spain

## Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain

The main objective of the program is to maintain the continuity of educational and social activities for Jewish children and teenagers in Spain. The FCJE unites Spanish Jewish communities from all over the country and provides religious, cultural, and educational services.

All of the communities united under the FCJE have educational structures such as Sunday schools, Talmud Torahs and informal education (hadracha). The FCJE has initiated programs to assist in the development of Jewish education in Jewish communities at two levels:

- National activities, such as seminars on various matters, winter and summer camps, and trips to Israel
- Local religious and educational programs for small communities



The Jewish communities of Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga, and Melilla have regular Hadracha Colleges and have created, jointly with the FCJE, the National Hadracha College, an initiative in which all Spanish Jewish communities participate. The goal of the National Hadracha College is to provide training for youth on various issues, such as history, religion, culture, and educational resources, so that they may become volunteers in their communities.

Twice a year the National Hadracha College organizes seminars for future leaders. At these seminars, participants attend lecturers on different topics: religion, history, Sephardic culture, Israel and Zionism, educational resources, the Middle East conflict, and communication skills. Since its creation in 1994, this project has achieved successful results. More than a 100 madrichim (counselors) have received this training and most of them have become volunteers and have continued to develop youth programs in their own communities.

Since 2003, the FCJE has been particularly involved in the development of small communities, providing assistance in areas such as education and religion, important factors in the continuity of Jewish life.



# Jewish Gathering

## Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic

Jewish Gathering CR, a five-day residential learning and community event, took place in April and hosted 150 participants. The main aim of the event was to gather people of all ages and various Jewish backgrounds to spend meaningful time together and to bring back the spirit of an active learning environment. It included lectures on various Jewish topics such as Torah study, Israel, Israeli and Jewish art, and workshops for children and adults, as well as a cultural program that featured musical and stand-up performances.



# Painting Collection of the Jewish History Museum

## Federation of the Jewish Communities in Romania

The project “Painting collection of the Jewish History Museum” is a fruit of cooperation between the Federation of the Jewish communities and the Jewish History Museum in Romania that organized an exhibition of 60 paintings of Jewish artists of Romania and produced a detailed catalogue of the presented works and artists’ biography. The project aims to offer the visitors of the Museum a chance to learn more about important Romanian artists of Jewish origin and their contribution to arts and to Romanian cultural development; this way creating a new tool in fighting against prejudice and Anti-Semitism. The opening of the exhibition was attended by representatives of various cultural institutions, decisions makers and received a wide media exposure.



# “Promoting the Visibility of the Jewish Community in the Serbian Environment”

## The Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia

The Federation of Jewish Communities marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the WWI, and joined other cultural institutions and museums in Serbia in a broad range of activities marking this important, and, in terms of many parameters, crucial historical period for Serbia and its citizens. The aim of this project is to revive the memory on the centuries-long mutual influence between Serbs and Jews; the intertwining of these two different cultures in all segments of society; and the mutual work aimed at the progress and improvement of the state in which the Jews lived as loyal citizens, sharing the same destiny as Serbian people. In order to do this, this year and for the next several years to come, FJC Serbia plans to join the whole series of activities with which the State will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning and end of WWI. The intention of the Federation is to turn the attention of the Serbian public to the immeasurable contribution of the Jewish Community in Serbia throughout history, not only in times of peace but also in the wars and battles for the liberation and preservation of the common homeland.



# Moadon – The right camp for Jewish children

## Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia

Federation of Jewish Communities Slovakia project MOADON (youngsters camps) became the main educational event at a national level. Camps take place 4 times a year and focus on the experience of Jewish life, religion, culture and tradition. The organizers explore topics such as: Jewish holidays, Hebrew alphabet, Land of Israel, Jewish dances, music, history of local Jewish communities and visit places of Jewish history such as synagogues and cemeteries.

The camps are led by trained staff composed from community members, youth and adults, who regularly follow the newest trends in the field of Jewish education. These volunteers have a Jewish background and prepare activities for children on a professional level combining different methods of non-formal education, team building activities, interactive games, implementation of art skills into the regular camp curriculum.



# Mitzvah Day in Europe

## Mitzvah Day, UK

Mitzvah Day is an annual, global day of social action that brings thousands of people together to support local charities, reach out to other people, and effectively strengthen both our community and civil society locally. Each community (partner) that participates carries out hands-on social action projects on Mitzvah Day in November that will benefit a local charity and engage people both with each other and with that charity. The aim of this project is to expand Mitzvah Day in Europe and to consolidate the existing Mitzvah Days there. There are currently projects taking place primarily in Germany but also in France, Austria, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, and Ukraine. The organizers assist these communities in running meaningful and valuable local projects and provide them





with merchandise, project ideas, guidelines on volunteering, ideas on communications, and other support.

Mitzvah Day is based on Jewish values and led by the Jewish community, but works with people of all faiths as well as those with no faith. The interfaith element has grown over the past few years and Mitzvah Day is now one of the best known, largest, and strongest interfaith events on the British calendar and is endorsed by the British government from the level of the Prime Minister downwards.

Recent world events have meant that a climate of hatred and suspicion is developing in many countries in Europe. There is an increasing atmosphere of anti-Semitism, generated both by extremist Islam and the far right. Many Jewish communities feel under attack. In this context, it becomes essential to break down barriers of mistrust and ignorance alongside which anti-Semitism and hatred thrive. Through the building of stronger local communities where Jews, Muslims, and others all know each other and share experiences and common goals, anti-Semitism can be challenged.

## The Shoah Academy

### The Jewish Community of Croatia

The Shoah Academy focuses on ensuring the remembrance, honoring, and respect of the victims of the Holocaust and promotes education on human rights. The aim of the project is to provide knowledge and to encourage proper education on historical events. The project is based on events related to Holocaust and the experiences of Holocaust survivors.

One of the goals of the project is to use the theme Holocaust to raise consciousness regarding occurrences of various forms of violence, intolerance, and civil and human rights violations in contemporary society in order to prevent them. The project deals with memory, the victims, and the breach of basic human values. Its goal is to transmit knowledge on two different levels: to the youngsters directly while there are still witnesses and survivors who are able to confront them with the truth, and to the people who will teach the next generations. This project offers an opportunity to learn about an





ethnic and religious minority, its contribution to society and the state, and the horrible atrocities committed against it. It also offers a chance to learn about society as a whole and the social conditions that lead to intolerance. The participants, who will teach and spread knowledge among the youngsters, will be able to raise their own consciousness and become aware of their prejudices as well.

Unlike any other similar project conducted until now in Croatia, this one pays particular attention to historical events, particularly in Croatia, and to the people of Croatia. It addresses historical facts and the environment, which are responsible for allowing any kind of atrocity. Therefore, this project addresses the Holocaust from the perspectives of history, society, psychology, media, culture, and more. A special team of eminent professors and experts in the field is gathered for this purpose. The project is intended for high school and university students, teachers, lecturers, and public and private school officials.

The program consists of lectures, films, discussions, workshops, and the testimonials of Holocaust survivors. The participants will be exposed to the living history of the Jewish community, with its artifacts, people, historic contributions, and faith. Guest lecturers from Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum are also expected to take part. In addition, the seminar for teachers will include Betzavta workshops (based on a conflict-solving method developed in Israel).

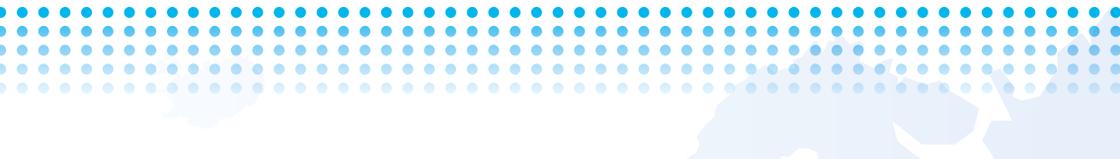
# The European Jewish Fund Leadership Program at Paideia

## Paideia II – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden

The European Jewish Fund Leadership Program at Paideia serves to furnish participants with the knowledge and tools they need to become driving forces in strengthening Jewish communities throughout Europe. It focuses both on leadership fellowships during the One-Year Program, centered on community development, and on creating activism for the European Jewish communities through the Paideia Project Incubator. Through the most intensive Jewish studies program and the most established program for project development in Europe, the participants are equipped with a deep understanding of Jewish culture, analytical skills acquired through hevruta study, and leadership and project management skills gained through seminars, project activities, and internships, and are empowered as agents of renewal in the European Jewish landscape.

The European Jewish Fund Leadership Program at Paideia targets activists and future leaders among the thousands of young people in Europe and the FSU who are seeking to





rebuild and strengthen communities where lack of knowledge and suppressed identities have often been dominant for decades. At Paideia, these young people unite in forging a strong identity based upon intelligent and informed understanding of Jewish civilization. Paideia provides in-depth Jewish learning and leadership training to students from countries where studies of this kind are often scant or nonexistent, and activates them as disseminators of their newfound knowledge, in line with Paideia's goal of bringing substance to the renewal of European Jewish community life.

The first part of the EJF Leadership Program provides eight **fellowships for Paideia students of the One-Year Jewish Studies Program**, focusing on community development alongside the most intensive Jewish studies program in Europe. The fellows in the program will receive training in community development, paired with short internships connected to the Stockholm Jewish Community. The combination of training and experience gives the fellows the tools they need to become strong activists in the field of community development.

An intensive one-week course of 30 hours on how to build a vital and viable Jewish community in today's Europe outlines the challenges European Jewry is facing and creates a platform for developing strategies for community work. The training sessions are given by experienced professionals working in the field and provide first-hand experience in community building. The sessions are also open to community workers in the Stockholm JC and coordinators of projects funded by the EJF.

Throughout the study year, the EJF fellows will have several shorter internships in Stockholm-based organizations and be part of organizing events that deal with Jewish community development (such as Limmud Stockholm, the European Day of Jewish Culture, the Jewish Film Festival, the Jewish Museum Night, the Yiddish Culture Festival, the Jewish Students' Winter Feast, and the Global Day of Jewish Learning). The Stockholm Jewish Community is unique in its structure as an Einheitsgemeinde (unified community) and has a strongly organized cultural and religious Jewish life, making it an excellent case study for community development. The variety of internships gives the fellows hands-on experience in community work and prepares them for implementing similar programs and projects in their home communities.

The second part of the program is **the Paideia Project Incubator**, Jewish Europe's leading program for social innovation. It is a ten-day interactive workshop where activists develop and concretize projects in education, culture, community life, and the arts. The intensive program consists of textual studies, project-development workshops, interaction with foundation representatives, personal tutoring, and networking.

# College Hadracha

## The Jewish Community of Turkey

The goal of the Turkish Jewish community and College Hadracha is to create an initiative through which the community's youth will be able to explore and develop its identity while absorbing Judaism in its various facets, such as history, religion, culture, literature, poetry, and philosophy. This program aims to create a master program through which young people will become volunteers in the community. In addition, it provides fundamental tools in marketing, fundraising, and strategic communication.

In order to realize this vision, Hadracha seminars were organized twice a year with up to 120 participants, out of which the Hadracha group was selected. Lecturers from different fields, including presidents of various associations of the Turkish community, journalists, and specialists on the Middle East conflict participated in the seminars, stressing the issues of Israel-Arab relations,





human rights, communication skills, and public relations. The other main goal of this project is to remind participants that Jewish identity is a whole entity that includes religious education, music, literature, intellectuals, obscure periods, and philosophy.

The project achieved successful results in the three years of activity at Hadracha College. Students who completed the program began to work in various communities. By creating a database of possible targets, they implement their idea professionally. Within the context of the project, students invite famous professionals in their field and organize roundtable meetings. The Turkish Jewish community is also planning to add personal improvement programs which will bring to light young people's leadership qualities.

# Summer U

## European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS)

For over 30 years, the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) has been bringing together hundreds of young Jews from across Europe and beyond for a week of learning, connection and fun. EUJS Summer University – known as “Summer U” - has become one of Jewish Europe’s most successful annual youth programs, a rite of passage for hundreds of European Jewish students and a great memory for the thousands of people who participated over the last decades.

This year with the support of the European Jewish Fund, Summer U brought together 300 young Jews from Europe, Israel and beyond in Portugal, August 23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. The week-long program combined a wide selection of activities, ranging from Jewish learning, current politics and leadership development to sports, dance and arts and crafts. A special emphasis was placed on connecting with Portugal’s Jewish community, and the entire Summer U visited the Great Synagogue of Lisbon in order to learn more about Jewish life and history in the region.

Summer U also represented the opportunity for Jewish student leaders to come together and develop their work further. In a dedicated “Leadership Track”, young activists

and leaders were able to develop their skills and build friendships. They also met with the Israeli ambassador to Portugal. Furthermore, delegates of EUJS’ member organization from across Europe participated in the EUJS General Assembly, and elected the new EUJS president, board and treasurer. Summer U enabled young Jews to experience Jewish peoplehood, discuss current issues and explore their Jewish identity.





# The Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry

The Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, inaugurated in May 2010 at the Tel Aviv University, provides an academic framework for the inter-disciplinary research of European Jewry - a dynamic and fascinating phenomenon - from the end of the Second World War until the present day.

The Center includes the Moshe Kantor database for the Study of Contemporary anti-Semitism and Racism and cooperates with the Ze'ev Vered Unit for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East.

The Center offers a platform for the diverse needs of researchers, students, governmental and civil service



personnel, professionals, activists and the public at large, both in Israel and abroad, and cooperates with European Jewish communities and their leaders.

The Center initiates, encourages and coordinates research projects, conferences, seminars, publications and public events in the following areas: demographic processes and their ramifications; legislation against racism, hate crimes and hate speech, and anti-Semitism (particularly Holocaust Denial); mutual contacts between Jewish communities and their leaders and the local societies and other minorities; preserving the national memory and communal legacy, and its implications on the present-day; monitoring, analysis and study of contemporary anti-Semitism and racism worldwide.

The Center's staff has participated in local and international conferences (EU, ICCA, OSCE, UNESCO), organized study sessions on Jewish communities (Hungary, Holland, Germany, Central Europe), an 8 meetings' research seminar on Jewish identities in Europe, presented the annual anti-Semitism worldwide report together with Dr. Kantor, who was invited to speak at press conferences, and interviewed on radio, TV and in the press - representing the Kantor Center, and published a number of academic publications.

### **Selected activities for 2014 – 2015:**

- January 26, 2014 and January 25 2015 – Prof. Porat participated in the government's meeting after having submitted the Kantor Center's initial analysis on the worldwide situation of antisemitism in 2013 and in 2014 to the Minister of the Diaspora, Mr. Naftali Benet. He presented it to the government.
- March 11, 2014 – an international conference on “contemporary Lessons of the Dreyfus Affair”, marking 100 years to Dreyfus's acquittal, was held in cooperation with TAU's Dept. of French Studies, the Sorbonne, and the French Embassy in Tel-Aviv.
- April 27, 2014 – held annual press conference presenting the Kantor Center's annual report on global antisemitism for 2013.
- August 2014 – sent an abstract of center's annual report and legislation booklet to the UN Special Rapporteur on racial discrimination, in preparation of the UN's annual General Assembly in September.

- January 15, 2015 – the Diplomatic Corps was invited to an event on Raoul Wallenberg Day in which we marked 70 years to the Auschwitz Camp Liberation, a decade to the UN’s declaration of International Holocaust Memorial Day, and we held a discussion on “international diplomatic and legislative activity against racial discrimination”.
- April 2015 – held annual international press conference on antisemitism and our Holocaust memorial Day event.
- May 10 & 11, 2015 – held 12<sup>th</sup> biennial international seminar on antisemitism in Tel-Aviv. Suggested topic:” Old and New Religious and National Aspects in Contemporary antisemitism”.

Following the seminar on May 12-14, The Cantor Center participated in the Foreign Ministry’s Global Forum on antisemitism in Jerusalem. Adv. Talia Naamat and Prof. Dina Porat co-chaired a working group on legislation.

- September 2015 - the manuscript of the third volume of the legislation project on Africa was sent to Brill to be published in the autumn.
- October 13-15, 2015 – Prof. Dina Porat, Dr. Haim Fireberg and Dr. Raphael Vago (keynote address) participated in a conference: “Being Jewish in Central Europe Today”, which was held in the Prague Center for Jewish Studies.
- Mid-December, 2015 – marking 50 years to the Nostra Aetate: the Center will present its Volume on recent changes in the Vatican’s attitude towards the Jewish People. This event will be held in the presence of President Reuven Rivlin, Cardinal Kurt Koch and other church dignitaries from Israel and abroad.



# Israel Up Close Reporting on European Jewry 2015

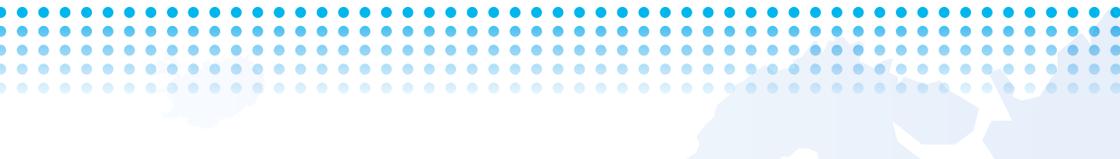
## IBA News of the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA)

The partnership between the IBA News and the European Jewish Fund (EJF) continued in 2015 to showcase events affecting Jews in Europe, and at the same time to help strengthen the European Jewish Communities and their ties to Israel.

This year, “Israel Up Close Reporting on European Jewry” focused on five major projects sponsored by the EJF:

- “Summer U” – the European Union of Jewish Students summer “get together”
- “Jahad” – the annual gathering of the Estonian Jewish Community
- “Mitzvah Day” – British Jewry’s social action event
- “FLY Budapest” – the Leadel start-up and high tech summit which took place this year in Budapest Hungary
- The “Leadel Leadership Forum” - a platform for European Jewish Leaders to meet and interface

Summer U is the “European Union of Jewish Students” summer event that brought together 400 Jewish Students and young professionals from all over Europe for a week of study and fun. It took place this year at a holiday resort outside the coastal town of Peniche, Portugal. The EUJS seeks to strengthen Jewish Communities and European society through student activism and advocacy.



Another project sponsored by the European Jewish Fund and covered by IBA NEWS was the Estonian Jewish Community's "Jahad" weekend which attracted some 400 participants ie a quarter of the entire Jewish population. The event took place in the Southern spa town of Parnu. The once thriving Estonian Jewish community was totally annihilated during the holocaust, however today it is developing once again and growing stronger. Jewish leaders say that events such as "Jahad" are vital, to keep the tiny community alive and cohesive.

The IBA/EJF News team also reported on the "Mitzvah Day" activities in the UK which are run by the Jewish community and promote social action and community engagement. Some 40 thousand people, including parliament members and faith leaders, participated in the event, which took place in Synagogues, Churches and community centers throughout the country. The focus this year was on charity, interfaith dialogue, tolerance and harmony. The Syrian refugee crisis was also high on the agenda.

The Leadel "Fly Budapest" conference is an elite forum for highly qualified young Jewish professionals from all over Europe, and from Israel, to interface and inspire one another. The event, which took place this year in Budapest Hungary, is designed to help participants further their careers, while connecting them to Israel and to Judaism.

Alongside the hi-tech conference in Budapest, the Leadel organizers convened another session of the annual "Leadel Leadership Forum", where Jewish leaders from around Europe met to network and strengthen ties. At this years forum a decision was made to establish a unique web based social media platform which would enable Jews across the continent to meet and keep in touch, privately and safely, effectively creating a unified pan European Jewish community.

THE IBA/EJF partnership also covered the "International Luxembourg Forum On Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe" conference that took place in Washington. This session of the forum was held in association with the US based "Nuclear Threat Initiative". Solutions for the prevention of nuclear terrorism were high on the agenda this year.

IBA ENGLISH NEWS on Israel Television channel has over a hundred thousand viewers in Israel and is seen by millions worldwide via various television stations, cable companies, satellite networks and on the internet. In the USA alone IBA NEWS is carried by 31 cable networks and reaches over 50 million homes IBA NEWS is available to millions of viewers in Europe Asia and the Middle East.



# Development of the Official Website of the Jewish Community of Poland

## The Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland

This year, the European Jewish Fund helped to develop the network infrastructure and data security of the official website of the Jewish Community of Poland. Since its reconstruction in 2010, the portal has become the largest Jewish media site on the Polish Internet, informing its visitors about important community events and festivals and teaching the history and culture of the Jewish community of Poland. Following the new development effort, the portal has added hundreds of new articles and has had thousands of visitors every day.



INTERNATIONAL  
LUXEMBOURG FORUM  
ON PREVENTING  
NUCLEAR  
CATASTROPHE  
www.luxembourgforum.org

## The International Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe

The International Luxembourg Forum (Luxembourg Forum) and the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) held a conference at Washington aimed at discussing the threat of nuclear arms race, proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

Participants in the conference discussed immediate concerns and relevant issues as well as specific steps to achieve nuclear arms reduction, ways of jump-starting stalled negotiating processes, methods of fighting nuclear terrorism and boosting cooperation between the world's leading nuclear powers. Discussions also looked



at the role of arms control in strengthening international stability, and on how to better cope with the threats to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Based on the outcomes of these proceedings, plans are in place to appeal to the leaders of Russia and the US containing proposals for resuming the dialogue in nuclear arms control.

Dr. Kantor, President of the Luxembourg Forum, said:

“I was highly disturbed to hear the renowned international experts at today’s forum openly express strong concerns over the likelihood of nuclear dirty bomb being used by terrorists. We live in an age of unparalleled risks to global security. The only way to prevent nuclear terrorism is to prevent terrorists from buying or stealing nuclear materials and making weapons of mass destruction. If the international community cannot unite against this shared threat, we are all at risk as these weaknesses provide opportunities for terrorists to exploit”.

The proposals by Dr. Kantor discussed at the conference include:

- Embarking on consultations on further cuts to the strategic offensive weapons, on transparency and control with regard to non-strategic nuclear arms as required by Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- Resolving the differences over the impact that the US BMD defenses, the Russian Aerospace Defense, and the strategic high-precision conventional weapons may have on strategic stability;
- Changing the conditions inherited from the Cold War era, which might trigger the use of US and Russian strategic offensive forces, by lengthening the decision time preceding a missile launch in a crisis.
- The leaders of Russia and the USA, the major countries of Europe and the world put efforts against nuclear terrorism at the very top of the international security agenda;
- The cooperation on all of the previously adopted nuclear terrorism initiatives and resolutions of the UN Security Council be immediately resumed and enhanced;
- The US, Europe, Russia and the Middle East nations should finally agree to closely coordinate and step up real action against the Islamic State;



- Special services and operational agencies must cooperate, to the maximum degree possible, in uncovering and curbing any attempts to seize nuclear material and prepare nuclear terrorist attacks.

Following the conference, the Supervisory Board of the Luxembourg Forum will convene for a meeting to hear Luxembourg Forum President Moshe Kantor's report on the work performed in 2015 and discuss future plans.



## The European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR)

In 2015, the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation continued its efforts to promote tolerance and combat all forms of intolerance in Europe. Several key projects have been developed thanks to the contribution of the European Jewish Fund.

### **Forum of the World Society at the 4th International Forum “Let My People Live!”**

The European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation has been a supporting organizer of the Forum of World Society, held within the 4th International Forum „Let My People Live!“ in Prague.



The Prague Forum gathered around 500 representatives of European civic society, Speakers and members of Parliaments, journalists etc. It included a Forum of the World Society – 3 intensive debates focused on the Role of Media and Civic Society, Role of Legislation and Politicians in Combating Political Extremism, neonazism and Islamic radicalism. In Prague, the ECTR presented its project of the Model Law on the Promotion of Tolerance to the he Roundtable of European Speakers of Parliament.



### **European Medal of Tolerance 2015 Awarding Ceremony**

On the 9th March 2015, at a star-studded gala event at Kensington Palace in London, the ECTR awarded the Third European Medal of Tolerance to three-time Champions League winner Samuel Eto'o and the FARE Network, an anti-

discrimination and social inclusion network that counters inequality and exclusion in football. Samuel Eto'o has been awarded the Medal of Tolerance because of his personal leadership and devotion to combating manifestations of racism and intolerance. Personally a victim of many racist incidents, he has found the courage and will to stand against the racists, building awareness and inspiring fellow footballers and millions of football fans. The FARE Network has taken a bold stand against discrimination and challenges racism in an active and practical manner

### **ECTR Model Law on the Promotion of Tolerance project. International Conference in Heidelberg, review in Tallinn and presentation at the House of Commons in London.**

On the 14th October 2015, the ECTR presented at the House of Commons in London the project of the Model Law on the Promotion of Tolerance and Suppression of Intolerance. Prior to that, at the end of August, the ECTR carried out a review of the Model Law at a special session with ECTR legal experts in Tallinn, implementing recommendation from an international conference in Heidelberg (February 2015). The auditorium at the London presentation included senior members of House of Commons and Lords; senior officials from the Home Office, Department of Education; journalists, representatives of Embassies, NGOs, think tanks and academics.



# EUROPEAN JEWISH FUND

## Fund's Activists



**Dr. Moshe Viatcheslav Kantor**  
*Chairman of the Fund*  
*Member Governor*



**Adv. Arie Zuckerman**  
*Secretary General*



**Vladimir Kantor**  
*Treasurer*

## EJF Executive Council Members



The Jewish Community of United Kingdom

**Jonathan Arkush**  
*President*



The Shalom Organization of Jews in Bulgaria

**Maxim Benvenisti**  
*President*



Jewish Congress of Moldova

**Alexander Bilinkis**  
*President*



Jewish Confederation of Ukraine

**Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich**  
*Chief Rabbi*



The Jewish Community of Slovenia

**Boris Caran**  
*Board Director*



Jewish Community of Lisbon

**Jose Oulman Carp**  
*President*



**La Benevolencija Sarajevo Jewish Community**

**Jakob Finci**  
*President*



**Jewish Communities of Serbia**

**Dr. Ruben Fuks**  
*President*



**Organization of Belarusian Jewish Organizations  
and Communities of Belarus**

**Boris I. Gersten**



**Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt**

*Chief Rabbi of Moscow*



**The Jewish Community of Turkey**

**Ishak Ibrahimzadeh**  
*President*



**Jewish Community of Norway**

**Ervin Kohn**  
*President*



**The Official Council  
of Jewish Communities in Sweden**  
**Lena Posner-Korosi**  
*President*



**Coordinating Committee of the Jewish  
Communities in the Republic of Croatia**  
**Ognjen Kraus**  
*President*



**Jewish Community of Lithuania**  
**Faina Kukliansky**  
*Chairman*



**Organization of Belarusian Jewish Organizations and  
Communities of Belarus**  
**Leonid Levin (z"l)**  
*President*



**Federation of Jewish Communities  
in Czech Republic**  
**Petr Papoušek**  
*President*



**Union of Jewish Communities in Poland**  
**Leslaw Piszewski**  
*President*



**Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia**  
**Igor Rintel**  
*President*



Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish  
Organizations  
**Serge Rozen**  
*President*



Macedonia  
**Berta Romano-Nikolikj**  
*President*



Riga Jewish Community, Latvia  
**Arkady Suharenko**  
*President*



Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania  
**Aurel Vainer**  
*President*



Jewish Community of Estonia  
**Alla Yakobson**  
*Chairman*



Cyprus Jewish Community  
**Ami Yeshurun**  
*President*



Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities  
**Herbert Winter**  
*President*



Sports | Tue Mar 10, 2015

# Soccer–Eto’o collects award for stance against racism

London, March 9 | By Alan Baldwin

Former Chelsea striker Samuel Eto’o called for racist soccer fans to feel the full weight of the law as he returned to London on Monday to collect an award for his stance against intolerance.

The Cameroonian striker, who has been singled out for racial abuse during his career, said he had been shocked by video footage last month showing a group of Chelsea fans preventing a black man boarding a metro train in Paris.

“I was shocked when I saw those images, but fortunately Chelsea has millions of fans worldwide,” African football’s most decorated player told Reuters before the presentation at Kensington Palace.

“These five or 10 fans are not representative of all the other fans,” added the four times African player of the year and twice African Nations Cup winner.

“We are here to fight against these issues and try to have harsher laws that are applied in a very tough way to fight against this abuse.”

Eto’o, now playing for Sampdoria in Italy, was awarded the European Medal of Tolerance by the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR), a non-governmental campaigning organisation.



“Football is a very important vehicle to fight racism, Islamic radicalism, neo-nazism and anti-semitism,” said ECTR president **Moshe Kantor**, who warned of a growing problem in Europe.

The Russian-born Kantor, who is also president of the European Jewish Congress, praised Eto’o for having the “courage and will to stand against the racists, building awareness and inspiring fellow footballers and millions of football fans.”

Eto’o has played for Real Madrid, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Anzhi Makhachkala and Everton in a career that has seen him win the Champions League three times.

He experienced racism in Spain in 2006, while with Barcelona, when he threatened to walk off after Zaragoza supporters made monkey noises whenever he had the ball.

In Italy, playing for Inter against Cagliari, the referee stopped the match when Cagliari fans made racist chants. Eto’o went on to score the winning goal.

Eto’o played down the risk of racism tarnishing the 2018 World Cup in Russia, however, despite numerous examples plaguing the country’s domestic game and causing concern abroad.

“My experience in Russia was the most beautiful of my sporting career,” he said. “I came away with a very good impression.” (Reporting by Alan Baldwin, editing by Justin Palmer)

# International Nuclear Experts Call on US and Russia to Form a Coalition to Tackle Threat of Nuclear Terrorism

December 2, 2015

Joint conference, with the International Luxembourg Forum and the Nuclear Threat Initiative, on preventing a crisis in the control over proliferation of nuclear weapons and efforts against nuclear terrorism

**The International Luxembourg Forum (Luxembourg Forum)** and the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) today held a conference aimed at discussing the threat of nuclear arms race, proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

Participants in the conference discussed immediate concerns and relevant issues as well as specific steps to achieve nuclear arms reduction, ways of jump-starting stalled negotiating processes, methods of fighting nuclear terrorism and boosting cooperation between the world's leading nuclear powers. Discussions also looked at the role of arms control in strengthening international stability, and on how to better cope with the threats to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Based on the outcomes of these proceedings, plans are in place to appeal to the leaders of Russia and the US containing proposals for resuming the dialogue in nuclear arms control.

**Dr. Kantor, President of the Luxembourg Forum,** said:

“I was highly disturbed to hear the renowned international experts at today’s forum openly express



strong concerns over the likelihood of nuclear dirty bomb being used by terrorists. We live in an age of unparalleled risks to global security. The current state of nuclear arms control has no precedents even in the Cold War era, let alone in the period since it ended. The Prague START Treaty that became effective in 2011 is now the only instrument of nuclear arms reduction that remains in force, while the permanent intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty is taking flak - if not yet a hammering - from both sides. The only way to prevent nuclear terrorism is to prevent terrorists from buying or stealing nuclear materials and making weapons of mass destruction. If the international community cannot unite against this shared threat, we are all at risk as these weaknesses provide opportunities for terrorists to exploit.

I believe that a joint conference with two of the most influential international organizations in the area of nuclear arms control - the Luxembourg Forum and the Nuclear Threat Initiative - represents a crucial landmark that may help jolt vital international dialogue on arms control out of stagnation, and allow the world to secure future peace and stability.”

The proposals by **Dr. Kantor** discussed at the conference include:

- embarking on consultations on further cuts to the strategic offensive weapons, on transparency and control with regard to non-strategic nuclear arms as required by Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- resolving the differences over the impact that the US BMD defenses, the Russian Aerospace Defense, and the strategic high-precision conventional weapons may have on strategic stability;
- changing the conditions inherited from the Cold War era, which might trigger the use of US and Russian strategic offensive forces, by lengthening the decision time preceding a missile launch in a crisis.
- the leaders of Russia and the USA, the major countries of Europe and the world put efforts against nuclear terrorism at the very top of the international security agenda;
- the cooperation on all of the previously adopted nuclear terrorism initiatives and resolutions of the UN Security Council be immediately resumed and enhanced;
- the US, Europe, Russia and the Middle East nations should finally agree to closely coordinate and step up real action against the Islamic State;

- special services and operational agencies must cooperate, to the maximum degree possible, in uncovering and curbing any attempts to seize nuclear material and prepare nuclear terrorist attacks.

Following the conference, the Supervisory Board of the Luxembourg Forum will convene for a meeting to hear Luxembourg Forum President Moshe Kantor's report on the work performed in 2015 and discuss future plans.

#### **About The Luxembourg Forum:**

The International Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe was established by a decision of an International Conference to Prevent a Nuclear Catastrophe convening in Luxembourg on May 24-25, 2007. The Forum's Advisory Council comprises 49 more credible and prominent international experts from 14 nations. The Forum is among the more representative NGOs bringing together leading international experts on nuclear non-proliferation, reduction and limitation of weapons. The President of the Forum is Viatcheslav Moshe Kantor. The Forum's principal bodies are the International Advisory Council and Supervisory Board. The Forum's key goals are to analyze threats arising from the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to develop specific suggestions and recommendations in a number of areas, such as continued reductions in nuclear weapons, strengthening nuclear and missile non-proliferation regimes, counteracting attempts at acquiring nuclear weapons and technologies.



The New York Times

## Israeli Researchers Say Attacks Against Jews Spiked in 2014

TEL AVIV, Israel — Jewish communities around the world faced an “explosion of hatred” last year, with the number of violent anti-Semitic attacks rising by 38 percent, according to a report released Wednesday by Israeli researchers.

With most of the violence concentrated in Western Europe, Jewish leaders warned that many in their communities are questioning whether they have any future in the region.

The report by researchers at Tel Aviv University recorded 766 incidents — ranging from armed assaults to vandalism against synagogues, schools and cemeteries — compared to 554 in 2013.

Many Jews feel like “they are facing an explosion of hatred toward them as individuals, their communities, and Israel, as a Jewish state,” wrote the researchers from the university’s Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry.

The center releases the report every year on the eve of Israel’s Holocaust memorial day, which begins Wednesday at sundown.

The researchers said the increase in attacks on Jews was partly linked to last summer’s conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip as well as to what they called a “general climate of hatred and violence” fostered by the rise of the Islamic State group in the Middle East.

The report said 2014 was the second most violent year for Jews in a decade after 2009, which also saw a surge in anti-Semitism following an Israeli military operation in Gaza.

The violence in 2014 spiked during the July-August war in Gaza, particularly in demonstrations organized in France, Germany and other countries, during which protesters chanted anti-Semitic slogans, looted Jewish shops and attacked synagogues as well as people identifiable as Jews.

However, researchers stressed that attacks had been on the rise also before the summer and said the controversy over Israel’s operation was used as a pretext to attack Jews.

“Synagogues were targeted, not Israeli embassies,” said Dina Porat, a historian who edited the report.

The reported incidents do not include the killing of four shoppers at a kosher supermarket in Paris following the deadly shooting at French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, since those events occurred in January.

However, the researchers noted that the wave of attacks has continued this year, and that the gruesome acts and propaganda videos of the Islamic State are also encouraging the radicalization of Muslims in the West.

**Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress**, an umbrella group representing communities across the continent, said Jewish life has reached a “tipping point” in Europe.

“Some are choosing to leave the continent, many are afraid to walk the streets and even more are retreating behind high walls and barbed wire,” Kantor told The Associated Press in an e-mail. “This has become the new reality of Jewish life in Europe.”

Kantor said that while governments have pledged to boost security for their Jewish communities, they must do more at a pan-European level to share intelligence, toughen legislation and combat pervasive anti-Semitic attitudes in the general population.

“European Jews should not leave out of fear and should push their leaders to defeat anti-Semitism and radical Islamist terrorism,” he said.

As in past years, the highest number of attacks was reported in France, which saw 164 incidents compared to 141 in 2013. In Britain there were 141 attacks, up from 95, and in the United States there were 80 incidents versus 55, including a shooting at Jewish sites in Overland Park, Kansas, that killed three people.

Some western European countries saw even greater increases, with the number of incidents more than doubling in Germany, Belgium, Austria and Sweden. The attacks also target individuals more frequently, with 306 cases involving people as victims, a 66 percent increase.

## Anti-extremism group: make 'maliciously vilifying' Israel illegal

October 20, 2015

Protesters wave Palestinian flags and hold placards during a pro-Palestinian demonstration, comparing Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel to Hitler and Nazi Germany

A European anti-extremism group chaired by Tony Blair has suggested a law that would make it illegal to "maliciously vilify" Israelis or Jews, writes Stephen Oryszczuk.



The European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR) initiative, which was debated at a House of Commons event last week, said the law would “suppress intolerance” and introduce the concept of “group libel”.

It would also make Holocaust denial illegal in the UK, as it is in other European countries, and it would make “approval of totalitarian ideology” a criminal offence too.

The law had a mixed response from the panel. David Anderson QC, the UK’s independent reviewer of terrorist legislation, felt the law went too far, saying: “Speech should only be a crime when there is an element of threat”.

Maajid Nawaz, the co-founder and chairman of counter-extremism think tank Quilliam, which challenges Islamist extremists, agreed that there were problems with the approach.

“Legislating against extremism is counter-productive,” he said, adding that it was important not to over-ride free speech. “No idea should be above scrutiny.”

However, Prof. Yoram Dinstein from Tel Aviv University argued that such a law was needed, because legislation “establishes the lowest common denominator”.

He added: “The Model Law follows perfectly David Cameron’s speech week at the Party Conference. He talked about passive tolerance, we talk about not being tolerant of the intolerant.”

**ECTR President Moshe Kantor** said: “The Model Law recognises the need for legislative measures to address intolerance, which is the poisonous root from which extremism grows.

“For too long we have turned a blind eye to extremist behaviour that is damaging but not illegal. We have been too tolerant of the intolerant. It is time to legislate against acts that are unacceptable, but for which we currently have no recourse”.

## Special report: Oodles of ideas in gearing up for Mitzvah Day

November 19, 2015

Last year's Mitzvah day saw the Facebook team at a Salvation Army homeless shelter! (credit: Yakir Zur)

If Prime Minister David Cameron is not busy this weekend, he could do worse than pop in to an unprecedented Great British Faith Cook-Off.

On Sunday, to mark **Mitzvah Day 2015**, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and Ibrahim Mogra, assistant secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, will be joining forces to cook a three-course vegetarian meal destined to feed up to 30 homeless people.



The two faith leaders, both said to be accomplished cooks, will be assisted in chopping and dicing by Labour MP Luciana Berger, one of many politicians across party lines who are supporting imaginative and creative **Mitzvah Day** initiatives.

Now in its tenth year, Mitzvah Day has become a firm fixture in the nation's calendar, attracting volunteers from all faiths and none. In a message of support, the prime minister said: "**Mitzvah Day** has become a powerful movement for change, harnessing the enthusiasm of thousands of people who want to give their time to make a difference in their communities.

"It is remarkable that this year over 37,000 volunteers will support hundreds of causes, from transforming local community spaces to supporting elderly and vulnerable people. Everyone taking part in Mitzvah Day should be incredibly proud of what they will achieve together."

He was echoed in his admiration by Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. She said: "Interfaith discussions and the co-operation of faith groups, like the Jewish community, are essential in transforming lives and building a stronger, fairer and equal country. Mitzvah Day is an excellent example of how people from all walks of life come together and show how easy it is to put Jewish values into action for the benefit of all communities".

In 2014, children at Little Bicks GY nursery at Townsend House shelter in Borehamwood

Among the hundreds of projects taking place under the Mitzvah Day umbrella is a cook-in by a group of Jewish and Muslim teachers at JW3, the Jewish community centre for London; Kisharon and Norwood teaming up for a charity football match; Jewish and Muslim students in York giving blood side-by-side; Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner helping out at a farm with young media professionals, and a young boy who is making his Barmitzvah into a Bar Mitzvah Day by asking guests to bring presents for an autism charity.

At the JW3 event, the group of 20 made a meal of lentil soup, vegetable biryani, chapatis, salad and apple crumble. The food was taken to Ashford Place, a resource centre in Cricklewood which provides advice and support on issues including homelessness, training, employment and health.

Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue becomes a Mitzvah Day hub on Sunday to discuss the issue of refugees, act as a drop-off point for donations from local churches

and mosques and host talks from Holocaust survivors and Kindertransport refugees.

Politicians taking part in Mitzvah Day events include Labour MPs Sadiq Khan, Keir Starmer, Tulip Siddiq and Luciana Berger, Conservative peer Baroness Williams of Trafford, who is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government, and Liberal Democrat the Lord Verjee CBE.

MPs from all parties united in a Mitzvah Day event at the House of Commons earlier this month, writing thank you cards to staff at various charities.

Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron, who took part, said: “Mitzvah Day is a model for social action. It reflects the values that Liberals hold dear, bringing people together to make a difference to their local communities.”









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